

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 27, and continuing through page 4, line 9, with the following replacement paragraph:

Figures ~~1A, B, and C~~ 1A-1F show an alignment of AXMI-006 (SEQ ID NO:2) with cry1Aa (SEQ ID NO:3), cry1Ac (SEQ ID NO:4), cry1Ia (SEQ ID NO:5), cry3Aa1 (SEQ ID NO:6), cry3Ba (SEQ ID NO:7), cry 4Aa (SEQ ID NO:8), cry6Aa (SEQ ID NO:9), cry7Aa (SEQ ID NO:10), cry8Aa (SEQ ID NO:11), cry10Aa (SEQ ID NO:12), cry16Aa (SEQ ID NO:13), cry19Ba (SEQ ID NO:14), and cry24Aa (SEQ ID NO:15). Toxins having C-terminal non-toxic domains were artificially truncated as shown. The alignment shows the most highly conserved amino acid residues highlighted in black, and highly conserved amino acid residues highlighted in gray. Conserved group 1 is found from about amino acid residue 218 to about 239 of SEQ ID NO:2. Conserved group 2 is found from about amino acid residue 300 to about 350 of SEQ ID NO:2. Conserved group 3 is found from about amino acid residue 547 to about 592 of SEQ ID NO:2. Conserved group 4 is found from about amino acid residue 611 to about 621 of SEQ ID NO:2. Conserved group 5 is found from about amino acid residue 694 to about 704 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 26, and continuing through page 13, line 5, with the following replacement paragraph:

Amino acid substitutions may be made in nonconserved regions that retain function. In general, such substitutions would not be made for conserved amino acid residues, or for amino acid residues residing within a conserved motif, where such residues are essential for protein activity. Examples of residues that are conserved and that may be essential for protein activity include, for example, residues that are identical between all proteins contained in the alignment of Figures ~~1A, B, and C~~ 1A-1F. Examples of residues that are conserved but that may allow conservative amino acid substitutions and still retain activity include, for example, residues that have only conservative substitutions between all proteins contained in the alignment of Figures ~~1A, B, and C~~ 1A-1F. However, one of skill in the art would understand that functional variants may have minor conserved or nonconserved alterations in the conserved residues.